

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/890,550
Amendment
Response to Final Office Action dated July 28, 2005

Docket No. 2000-22

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and these remarks are in response to the Final Office Action dated July 28, 2005. This amendment is timely filed.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 43-54 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 47 and 52 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 47 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). Claims 43-46, 50 and 51 were allowed. Claims 48, 49, 53 and 54 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The rejections are discussed in more detail below.

I. Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 47 and 52 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-34 of co-pending Application No. 10/018,708. Claim 47 is cancelled herein, and claim 52 is amended to depend from claim 53. Applicant thus believes that the provisional double-patenting rejection is moot, and requests withdrawal thereof.

II. Rejections to the claims based upon Art and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 47 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by WO 99/38651. Claims 43-46, 50 and 51 were allowed. Claims 48, 49, 53 and 54 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has cancelled claim 47 herein, and has rewritten claims 48, 49 and 53 in independent form. No additional claims fees are believed necessary, because applicant paid for 7 independent claims upon filing of the application. Claim 52 has been amended to depend from claim 53. Accordingly, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

Applicants have made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is thus believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicants

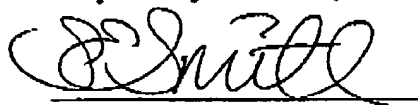
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invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Date: 10/28/05

Respectfully submitted,



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